



## **RESOLUTION**

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**URGING THE ADMINISTRATION TO PREPARE A THIRD DRAFT OR ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ALA MOANA REGIONAL PARK.**

WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu ("City") has been in the planning stages of a significant master plan to restore and revitalize the Ala Moana Regional Park ("AMRP") grounds and facilities for at least four years; and

WHEREAS, the first Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") Public Notice for AMRP was posted on December 23, 2017, and three subsequent public meetings were held, at which many members of the public expressed their disapproval of certain aspects of the master planned improvements contained in the first draft EIS; and

WHEREAS, the City posted a second Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("SDEIS") for AMRP on February 8, 2019, and opened a 45-day comment period which expired on March 25, 2019; and

WHEREAS, during a meeting of the City Council's ("Council's") Committee on Parks, Community Services, and Intergovernmental Affairs, held on March 25, 2019, the last day of the SDEIS' 45-day comment period, the Deputy Director of the City's Department of Parks and Recreation reported that the deadline for comment on the SDEIS had been extended by two weeks to April 8, 2019, in response to a letter of concern from Councilmembers Kobayashi and Formby; and

WHEREAS, shortly thereafter public outrage ensued following the revelation that such an extension of the comment deadline for the SDEIS was not allowable, according to the State of Hawaii's Office of Environmental Quality Control, and was thus rescinded by the City's Managing Director that same day, March 25, 2019, but the rescission was not reported on by media outlets until the following day, by which time the public comment period had already closed; and

WHEREAS, therefore, many members of the public who wished to comment on the SDEIS and believed they had a two-week period in which to do so, were unable to offer their comments before the closing of the comment period; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the SDEIS is listed as: the inclusion of a Cultural Impact Assessment, the addition of an Ala Moana sand source found just offshore of AMRP, and additional discussion provided for the playground from the Star Advertiser article; and



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WHEREAS, there is also concern among community stakeholders that the cultural impact assessment completed for the SDEIS is insufficient and requires additional information and analysis; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the Council passed Resolution 98-188, CD1, which established policy guidelines governing the establishment of active, passive, and multipurpose parks in the City and County of Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, AMRP is a regional park which, per Resolution 98-188, CD1, is defined as a multipurpose park (one with large, open spaces that serve a variety of passive and active activities), which, under the Council policy should provide sufficient land area for larger gatherings for community use, provided that permanent structures relating to these uses are not to be constructed in these parks; and

WHEREAS, the Council continues to question whether AMRP is the optimal location for a permanent structure like the one-acre playground proposed by the SDEIS, which will consume area that the Council's policy guidelines dictate should be left open for multiple uses; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu, that the Council recognizes the community's continued concerns regarding the discrepancies with the comment period deadline, the sufficiency of the Cultural Impact Assessment, and the appropriateness of the one-acre playground located at Ala Moana Regional Park as proposed by the Second Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Ala Moana Regional Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to address fully these concerns, and provide a fair opportunity for interested parties to comment, a third draft or new Environmental Impact Statement is warranted for the Ala Moana Regional Park master plan, specifically concerning the Cultural Impact Assessment and the proposed playground; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Design and Construction, and the Director of Parks and Recreation.

INTRODUCED BY:

*Tommy K. K. K.*  
*Tony W.*  
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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

**JUL 11 2019**

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers